

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As you work to draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we urge you to reject the administration's proposed elimination of the National Sea Grant College program (Sea Grant). We are grateful that the committee included an increase for this program in FY 2019, particularly as the increase was given in a challenging budget environment. For FY 2020, we continue to support at least the current funding level of \$80 million, of which \$12 million is the Marine Aquaculture Program, for Sea Grant. Furthermore, we are aware that the Sea Grant Association has recommended \$93.5 million in funding to carry out their important work.

As senators from some of the states with Sea Grant programs, we see firsthand how this federal investment is leveraged locally to bring immense returns to coastal communities, fishermen, universities, and students. Any cuts to this funding would have a devastating impact and we strongly urge you to reject any proposals to reduce this program.

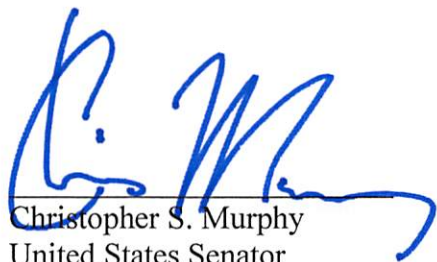
Sea Grant's work supporting waterfront and maritime businesses speaks for itself. The federal investment in Sea Grant programs yields \$579 million in economic benefit, a 793% return on federal investment. This economic impact includes creating and sustaining 2,500 local businesses and 12,500 jobs. In 2017, Sea Grant has helped 17,800 fishers adopt sustainable fishing practices and trained 2,000 people in safe seafood handling methods.

Sea Grant staff also assist communities with projects to become more resilient and preserve coastline habitat. In 2017, Sea Grant staff helped 462 communities improve coastal resiliency, and supported 4,634 resource managers in using ecosystem-based management strategies. They also helped preserve or protect 710,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

Finally, Sea Grant is helping to educate the next generation of freshwater and marine scientists. Last year, Sea Grant programs reached 798,000 K-12 students and in 2017 Sea Grant supported over 1,800 undergraduate and graduate students.

Sea Grant is vital to local businesses and an important part of preserving coastal communities for generations to come. We continue to support robust funding for Sea Grant at a minimum of the current funding level of \$80 million, of which \$12 million is the Marine Aquaculture Program, and acknowledge the recommendations of up to \$93.5 million in funding.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



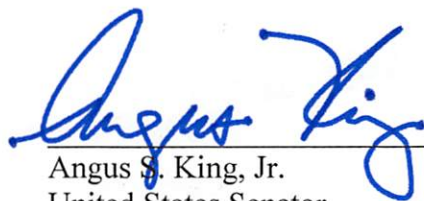
Bill Cassidy M.D.
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



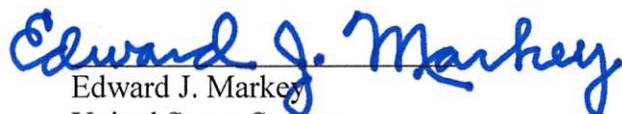
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



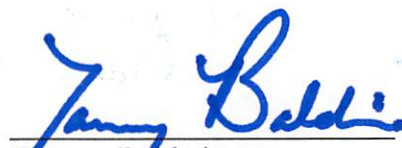
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



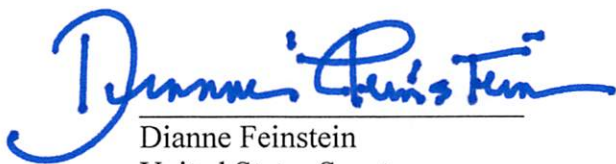
Tom Carper
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



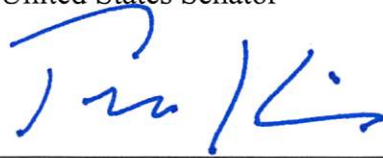
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



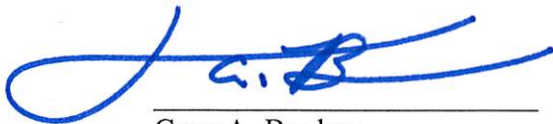
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



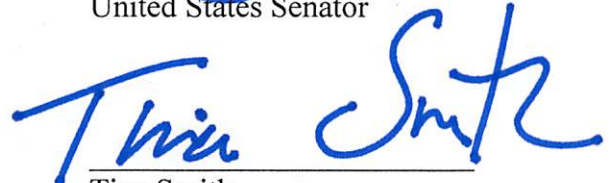
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



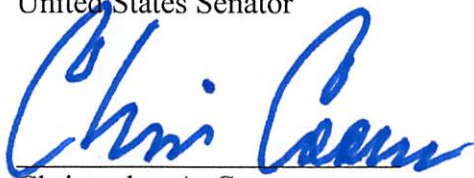
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



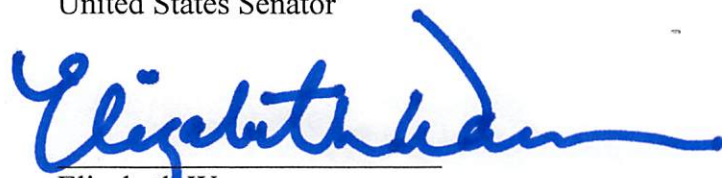
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator